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GGAS Gains New Executive Director and New Conservation/Education Director

by Marjorie Blackwell

CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MAY 27 2003

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At a special GGAS Board of Directors' meeting on Monday, April 14, Elizabeth Murdock was selected by a unanimous vote to be the new full-time Executive Director of GGAS. Elizabeth began work on May 1, assuming the position held by Arthur Feinstein, who has moved into a newly created, full-time position of GGAS Director of Conservation and Education.

Arthur, who has been with GGAS for 18 years and served as part-time Executive Director for the past 10 years, is a well-known and widely respected advocate for wildlife and habitat preservation. In his new position of Director of Conservation and Education, he will focus on leading and strengthening GGAS' extensive conservation and environmental education programs.

"I am delighted to take on this new role," Arthur said, "and to have the opportunity to focus on my primary interests. I believe we now have a great opportunity to expand GGAS' influence in saving wildlife and preserving natural habitats in the Bay Area."

Elizabeth Murdock has four years of global experience in the conservation field: as manager of the National Wildlife Federation's "Keep the Wild Alive" campaign, headquartered in Washington, D.C., and as manager of the international shark conservation program for WildAid in San Francisco. She

is a native of Oregon and a cum laude graduate of Yale University. She and her husband, who is an attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency, live in San Francisco.

"Out of a total of 70 candidates who applied for the Executive Director position, Elizabeth was our first choice," said GGAS Board President Miles McKey. "She impressed us personally, as well as with the quality of her interview presentation, which demonstrated her creative ideas for increasing public awareness of our chapter and improving our fundraising potential."

Welcome, Elizabeth, and congratulations, Arthur! 🐦

Interview with Elizabeth Murdock

by Marjorie Blackwell

As *The Gull* went to press in early May, Elizabeth Murdock was just starting her new job. Following is a brief interview just before her first day with GGAS.

Q: How did you become involved in environmental issues and conservation?

EM: I grew up in the Oregon woods, and wildlife and the natural environment have always been very important to me. I studied literature and art history in college—but I also started thinking about how I could contribute to protecting wildlife and wild spaces. After graduating, I researched environmental policies as a paralegal in the environmental group of a San Francisco law firm and did some work as an environmental journalist—and even taught a class



Elizabeth Murdock

Paul Cort

continued on page 5



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*Board of Directors '03

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRD BOX
415.681.7422

OBSERVATIONS

Bruce Mast bmast@alumni.nce.edu

GGAS WEBMASTER

Tomas Latham webmaster@goldengateaudubon.org

EDITOR

Eva Guralnick 415.282.4111 eva@egcommunications.com

COPY EDITOR

Marjorie Blackwell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Murdock 510.843.9912

CONSERVATION/EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Arthur Feinstein 510.843.6551

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Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
 Berkeley, CA 94702

Phone: 510.843.2222 • Fax: 510.843.5351

www.goldengateaudubon.org

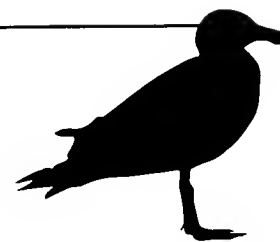
ggaa@goldengateaudubon.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9-12, 1-4 (please call first)

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FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sunday, June 1

Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. See *April Gull* for details. GGAS co-leaders: Allan Ridley, Rick Ferrick; Strybing Arboretum Docents: Helen McKenna, Linda Lyons. 415.566.3241.

Aquatic Park

San Francisco

Sundays, June 1, July 6, August 3

Discover birds next door to the urban environment. See *April Gull* for details. San Francisco Maritime Leader: National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser. 415.561.7100 or 561.7104.

Point Reyes

National Seashore

Sunday, June 1

Meet at 9 a.m. at White House Pool just east of the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Sir Francis Drake Blvd., north of Park Headquarters. Specific destinations will depend on the birds and the weather but our particular focus will be searching for vagrants. Take lunch and liquids. Dress for the capricious coastal climate. Leader: Ken Burton. 415.669.1847.

Birding for Kids at

Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Saturday, June 7

Arrive early to see exhibits—beaks, bones, feathers, nests. For ages 7 and

older. See *May Gull* for details. Each child should be accompanied by an adult. Leaders: San Francisco Nature Education Leaders Nancy DeStefanis, Angie Geiger, Scott Walker and Strybing Arboretum Docent Darin Dawson. Sponsored by GGAS, Strybing Arboretum and San Francisco Nature Education. 415.876.5220; myblueherons@yahoo.com.

Yosemite's Bird Life

Friday-Sunday, June 13-15

The lower and middle elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with singing birds in early June. We will bird each day and look for owls in the evening. See March 2003 *Gull* for details. Leaders: Dave Quady 510.704.9353 and Bob Lewis. [\$]

Mono Basin Bird

Chautauqua

Friday-Sunday, June 20-22

Mono Basin is known worldwide for its immense populations of migratory and nesting birds. It has been designated a globally significant Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. The 2003 Chautauqua includes seminars, field trips, music and great birding. Registration begins April 15. Visit www.birdchautauqua.org or call 760.647.6595. [\$]

Lassen Volcanic

National Park

Friday-Sunday, June 27-29

Join the Murphy family on the annual GGAS family camping excursion to

Lassen. See May 2003 *Gull* for details. Lodging available 15 miles north of the park at Hat Creek Resort, Old Station 530.335.7121. Other info can be obtained from the park headquarters, Mineral, CA 96063. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy. [\$]

Note: This trip is subject to last-minute cancellation. This year only, we are asking participants to sign up for the trip. After June 1, please register, preferably by e-mail, at murphsf@att.net or call Dan or Joan at 415.564.0074 if you don't have email. We will confirm the trip the weekend of June 21.

Sunol Regional Park

Sunday, June 29 🚗

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot inside the park near the green barn. Take Hwy. 680 south, about 8 miles beyond the intersection of Hwy. 580. Exit at Calaveras Rd., go left (south) and follow the signs to Sunol Regional Park, about 5 miles. We may see Lark and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Bullock's Orioles plus resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Leader: Bruce Mast 510.271.4785 (w), 510.435.1371 (cell) or bmast@alumni.rice.edu. [\$]

Yosemite Alpine Ecology

Saturday–Sunday, August 2–3

Snow conditions at the time of this writing make selection of any specific location for this year's outing impossible. However, expect a full day's hike in the high country on Saturday, and a shorter hike, returning to our cars at about 3 p.m. on Sunday. Due to its popularity, this trip will be by reservation only, and the numbers participating will be strictly limited. This is not primarily a birding trip, but will emphasize general Alpine ecology. All par-

ticipants should be in good physical condition, with reasonable experience in hiking and climbing at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, where we will be. Each day you should bring lunch, ample fluids, hat, water repellent jacket, sun screen, mosquito repellent, and good walking shoes or boots with treaded soles (no smooth-soled tennis or other shoes, please). We may traverse snow fields after the heavy winter snows in the Sierra.



Immature Glaucous Gull, Strybing Arboretum

Make camping or lodging arrangements early. County and Forest Service campgrounds are located between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining off Hwy. 120 (4-6 mi. west of Hwy. 395), as well as Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining: Best Western Lakeview Lodge 760.647.6543, Gateway Motel 760.647.6767, and Murphy's Motel 760.647.6316. For trip reservations and meeting details call Leader: George Peyton. 510.433.2609 (leave message). [\$]

End of Grant Avenue

San Leandro

Sunday, August 17

We will meet at 9 a.m. for a half-day trip. We hope to see shorebirds. From

Berkeley, take 880 south. In San Leandro, you will arrive at a point where the 238 Fwy going towards 580 begins. Stay in the rightmost lane and leave the 880 as if heading towards 238. Take the Washington Ave. exit, which appears almost immediately on the right. At the base of the offramp, you will be on Beatrice. Turn left on Beatrice then right on Washington. Continue on Washington, past Lewelling, to Grant Ave. Turn right on Grant and take it to the end. There is a small East Bay Regional Park parking lot next to a restaurant called Mei Ling's. Leader: Rusty Scalf 510.666.9936; rscalf@jps.net.

Winging into Autumn Mono Basin

Thursday–Friday, August 21–22

This field seminar will focus on the identification and ecology of both resident and fall migratory birds. We will visit a wide variety of habitats, including marshes, riparian forests and mountain slopes, in search of migrating birds. Appropriate for beginning and more advanced birders. David Lukas has led over 100 birdwatching and natural history programs for The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society and others. Contact Mono

continued on page 4



For carpool coordination, call Susan Groves at 510.654.5954 if you can share a ride or if you need a ride.

[\$] trips go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or if you are interested in leading a trip, call Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair.

Field Trips, continued from page 3

Lake Committee for reservations.
760.647.6595; www.monolake.org [\$].

Backpacking Trip in Lassen Volcanic National Park

Friday–Monday, August 22–25

We will backpack in three miles to Snag Lake and spend three nights in primitive camping by a stream near a large meadow. We should see flocks of mixed warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, plus resident birds of the mountains, Bald Eagles, and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be above 6,000 ft. elevation in beautiful country! To avoid impact in fragile habitat, this trip is limited to 12 people. Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some cooperative or shared meals may be arranged. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich. For details contact David Rice at 510.527.7210 or drice@jps.net.

Fall Bird Migration

Mono Basin

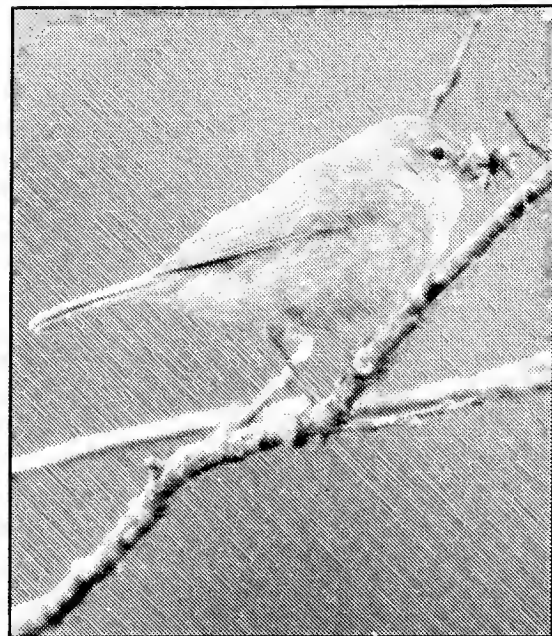
Saturday–Sunday, August 23–24

The east slope of the Sierra Nevada is a major migration route for birds traveling from northern nesting areas to

warm southern habitats. Early autumn is the time of year to see the greatest diversity of landbirds, shorebirds and waterbirds in the Mono Basin. Dave Shuford has been a staff biologist at Point Reyes Bird Observatory for 20 years. Register with the Mono Lake Committee at 760.647.6595; www.monolake.org. [\$]

Abbott's Lagoon at Pt. Reyes Saturday, August 30

We will look for Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers and any other migrant shorebirds. After the walk to the lagoon, we might go to some other areas of Pt. Reyes, depending on what has been reported during the preceeding week. From Olema or Pt. Reyes Station, take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Inverness. Turn right on Pierce Point Road and go past Tomales Bay State Park. Abbott's Lagoon parking lot is on the left, about 4 miles after the state park. Meet there at 8:30 a.m. In order to look for the sandpipers, we must walk around the lagoon, partly in sand, which can be somewhat strenuous. Be sure to bring water, a hat and sun screen. Leader: Bob Lewis. 510.845.5001; Rlewis0727@aol.com. 🐦



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Orange-crowned Warbler

Leaving a Conservation Legacy

In 1973, George Whittell gave a bequest of \$100,000 to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to aide the East Bay Regional Park District in acquiring Point Pinole Regional Park. This generous gift helped to ensure the preservation of the wetland now known as Whittell Marsh.

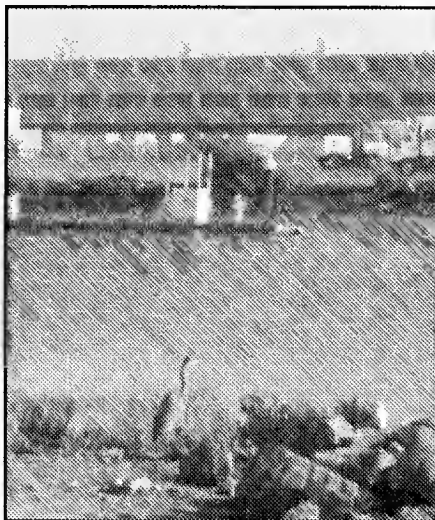
Some of GGAS' most important conservation work has been funded by bequests of all sizes. Planning a future gift to GGAS is a wonderful way to support our work and help GGAS preserve the Bay Area's wildlife and habitats for future generations.

GGAS is grateful to be included in your planning. If you are interested in setting up a bequest, we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call the GGAS office at 510.843.2222 for more information.

Clinton Basin Earth Day 2003

by Jacqui Smalley

On April 19th, we gathered at Clinton Basin to do trash pickup at the site of the restoration. The little plants and irrigation are in, and a pair of mallards was playing under one of the sprinkler heads like dogs! A cormorant sat on the post sunning himself. We're hopeful that birds will find a safe haven here, in spite of the many industrial activities close by.



Jacqui Smalley

A Great Blue Heron watches during Clinton Basin Earth Day activities.

on American environmental literature as a university tutor in East Germany. But my true career as a wildlife conservationist began in 1998, when I started working on a national endangered species campaign with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C.

Q: Why did the position of Executive Director of GGAS interest you?

EM: I was impressed by the scope of GGAS' conservation and environmental education work in the Bay Area and by the effectiveness and dedication of GGAS' active teams of volunteers. I also believe that local activism is critical to wildlife conservation. GGAS is connecting people of all ages with the wonders of the San Francisco Bay environment and empowering them to protect and restore wild areas—and cultivating skills and appreciation that aid conservation locally and globally.

Q: What strengths and experiences do you hope to draw on as the new Executive Director of GGAS?

EM: In my previous work, I have focused on actively engaging the public in conservation efforts and promoting programs that tangibly improve conditions for threatened wildlife and their habitats. As manager of NWF's "Keep the Wild Alive" campaign, for example, I developed programs to cultivate volunteer activists and initiate community-based conservation projects across the U.S. I want to keep this same focus as I help GGAS to strengthen and expand the conservation, education and volunteer programs that make it so successful.


Of course, financial strength is integral to conservation success—and I plan to leverage GGAS' excellent conservation, education, advocacy and recreation programs to raise awareness about GGAS within the Bay Area community and build a stronger funding base for the critical conservation work we are doing.

Q: Looking ahead, what do you see as some possible strategies for strengthening GGAS conservation and environmental education activities?

EM: I believe we need clear goals for our conservation campaigns—goals that target protection of the most biologically critical areas within GGAS' geographic scope. I also believe we need to articulate the importance of our conservation plan, stressing the connectivity between local streams and wetlands, the Bay and the ocean, and their strategic role in the Pacific Flyway. We need to emphasize the importance of environmental education that introduces children to the natural world, as well as the critical role activist training plays in enabling GGAS members to influence local, state and national policies and protect the natural areas they love.

GGAS has so much to offer—its field trips throughout the Bay Area and California with experienced leaders, its marvelous monthly speaker programs, its international travel programs, and a great group of committed and dedicated volunteers. I am honored to have been selected as the new Executive Director, and I look forward to meeting and working with as many chapter members as possible in the months ahead.

Q: One last question: Do you have a favorite bird?

EM: Well, I have always had a great passion for parrots and macaws—but I realize our San Francisco parrots aren't really native. So, when it comes to local birds, I'd have to say the California least tern! 

Donations

Thank you for your generous donations for our many conservation, education and member activities!

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 to \$1000)

Maynard P. and Katherine Z. Buehler Foundation Fund

Least Tern (\$200 to \$500)

Leora Feeney (FAWR-signs protecting pelicans and seals), Andrew & Sharon Gillin

Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$200)

Barbara Anderson, Jill Moak, Elizabeth Murdock & Paul Cort

Gifts (to \$100)

Sharon Anderson, Marlou Belyea*, Fran Block*, Howard Brownson*, Fred L. Converse*, Audel & Lynne Showers Davis, Carole Gross*, Virginia W. Havens*, Keelung Hong*, Joy Maxion*, Gus Muzio, Regina Phelps, Phila Rogers, Sandra Schloss, Virginia Schrock*, Marsha Seeley*, Edward Stackpoole*, John Stockwell, John Sudall

In the Memory of

Arlene Cogburn

– Jane Barrett

In the Name of

Nick and Blue Thompson

– Kenneth D. Alborn

In Honor of

Morgan Harris' 87th birthday

– Mildred and Ed Bennett

In Kind

Barry Deutsch Design Works (design and production of new membership brochure)

Grants

Native American Cultural Center, \$500 grant for co-sponsorship of GGAS spring activities as part of Native Spring Festival

* With GGAS Supporting Membership

Take Action to Protect Wetlands— Two Bills Need Your Support

by Arthur Feinstein

The snows of Kilimanjaro are melting away; by 2015 they may be gone completely. This striking example drives home the impacts of global warming.

Human actions are changing our world in very apparent ways. Consider the near disappearance of Atlantic codfish and Pacific rockfish (both fishing industries are now essentially closed), the melting of the permafrost layer in Alaska (which is causing roads and houses to collapse as the ground subsides), and an ever-rapidly increasing extinction rate for species worldwide. It seems there has never been a greater need for strong policies to protect our fragile environment—so it is particularly discouraging that the Bush Administration is launching an attack on our nation's wetlands. An Administration proposal threatens to weaken federal protections for wetlands by redefining them so as to remove smaller, isolated wetlands from federal jurisdiction.

Wetlands are crucial for maintaining the health of our world (*see sidebar*). California has already lost over 91 percent of its historic wetlands—more than any other state. The Administration's actions threaten those that remain.

Bills to protect wetlands have been introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. You can help by voicing your support for these bills.

Senator Barbara Boxer has taken a leading role in this issue. She has joined several Senators in introducing S. 473, *The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act*. This bill would correct any

ambiguities in the original *Clean Water Act* and make it clear that the Act protects all waters of the United States and restores to them their "chemical, physical, and biological integrity." Please write Senator Boxer and thank her for her leadership in this effort.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has yet to sign on to this bill. Please write and ask her to sign. Thank her for the critical role she played in the acquisition of 16,000 acres of the Cargill salt ponds in San Francisco Bay, much of which will be restored to tidal wetlands. Remind her that our smaller wetlands also provide critical water quality and wildlife functions, and that to be consistent with her Cargill success, she should also seek to preserve our State's smaller, isolated wetlands.

You can write both Senators at: Senator _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.


The companion bill in the House of Representatives is H.R. 962, *The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act*. To date, only Representatives George Miller and Ellen Tauscher have signed on. If you live in their districts, please thank them. If you live in the districts of Barbara Lee, Nancy Pelosi or Tom Lantos, please write and ask them to sign on to H.R. 962.

They can be reached at The Honorable _____, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Remember, your voice does make a difference.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Arthur Feinstein at 510.843.6551.

If you'd like to be involved in similar campaigns, please consider joining our Armchair Activist group. This group of over 200 GGAS members receives monthly Action Alerts on critical conservation issues, providing the information needed to write informed letters to government representatives. The impact is far-reaching.

For more information, email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org or call the office at 510.843.2222. 

A Wetland Primer

Over half of our threatened and endangered species depend upon wetlands.

75% of fish species depend on wetlands at some time in their life cycle. Fish stocks are disappearing not only because of overfishing but also because of the loss of their inshore shallow water habitats such as wetlands.

50% of bird species depend upon wetlands during their life cycles.

Wetlands filter out contaminants from our nation's waters.

Wetlands act as stormwater detention basins and slow flood surges.

Wetlands generate billions of dollars annually in wildlife tourism.

GGAS Elects Board and Welcomes New West Bay Director

by Marjorie Blackwell

In the GGAS 2003 Board of Directors' election held in April, all nominees were duly elected. They will take office at the general membership meeting on Thursday, May 15th in Berkeley. (See the list below of elected directors.)

The newest member to join the GGAS board is **Bob Bennett**, who was elected as a West Bay Director for a three-year term ending in 2006. Bob moved to San Francisco in 2001 when he retired from a career in health care management. One of his first priorities was to become involved in an organization concerned with environmental and wildlife values. He called the GGAS office in Berkeley and spoke to Dana Kokubun, who is assisting the chapter to write fundraising grants. "Dana was so informative and helpful and told me a lot about what GGAS is doing," Bob says. "She invited me to stop by the office, which I did, and met her and Arthur Feinstein. She told me about the work of the San Francisco Conservation Committee, and soon after that I became involved in the Committee."

Bob now coordinates the Conservation Committee's Pier 94 project, a joint collaboration between GGAS and the Port of San Francisco to restore a site on the city's southern waterfront as wetland habitat for bird and plant species.

"Bob has been a great help to our Conservation Committee," says West Bay Director Nancy Smith. "He has been assisting us, as a committee, to

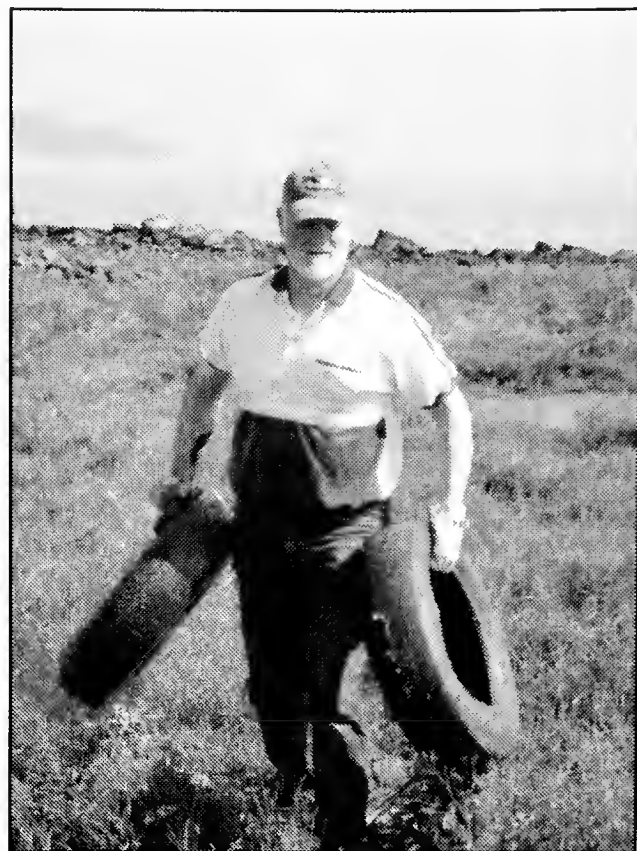
set priorities and work more efficiently to maximize our influence on the issues that most concern us."

Bob is a native of Texas and earned his bachelor's degree from Baylor University and his master's degree in Business Administration from Chaminade University in Honolulu. He lived in Sacramento for 10 years prior to moving to San Francisco and was on the board of the American River Natural History Association.

"What I enjoy most about the Conservation Committee," Bob says, "is the opportunity to work on a variety of fronts with talented and committed people to protect and restore a healthy habitat for future generations of all species."

As someone who enjoys birding, hik-

ing and "getting my hands dirty doing habitat restoration," Bob has definitely found the right place. Welcome! 🐦



Anne McTavish

Bob Bennett, Earth Day 2003.

The following persons have been elected to the GGAS Board of Directors for 2003–04. They took office at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2003, in Berkeley.

Carolyn Kolka, Second Vice President

Patricia Gannon, Recording Secretary

Carolyn Kolka, Corresponding Secretary

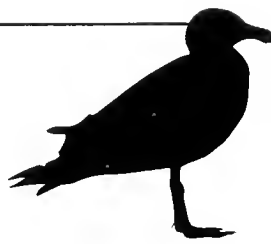
Al Peters, Treasurer

Bob Bennett, West Bay Director (term ending '06)

Nancy Smith, West Bay Director (term ending '04)

OBSERVATIONS

April 1–30, 2003
Bruce Mast



April turned out to be rather cooler and wetter than normal. Coming after a dryer-than-average late winter, the rain was welcome insurance against future water shortages. But the wet weather almost certainly contributed to several observers lamenting the slow pace of spring migration. Still, those who were willing to take their chances with the weather were treated to arriving Vaux's Swifts; Calliope Hummingbirds; Olive-sided, Pacific-slope, and Ash-throated Flycatchers; Warbling Vireos; Yellow Warblers; Western Tanagers, and much more.

Around Northern California, a number of noteworthy rarities and vagrants were found last month. A Godwit Days pelagic trip off the North Coast (HUM) turned up a likely Murphy's Petrel (RH). Merced NWR (MER) was a hotspot for Least Bittern and Stilt Sandpiper (PM). Merced Co. was also a good place to find Gray Flycatchers and a Sage Thrasher (PM). Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YOL) hosted a **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) (AEn) and the Big Sur Bird Observatory's mist netting operation in MTY captured a Dusky Flycatcher (SHa). Birders who focused their attention on the Bay Area were awarded with treats of their own.

Loons to Ducks

April saw the expected flocks of migrating loons off the coast and many of our favorite wintering ducks disappeared or dramatically declined in numbers as they oriented their compasses north. An unusual concentration of 6 Red-necked

Grebes turned up on 8 April at Limantour Beach, PRNS (MRN), probably part of the northward push (RS). Sonoma Co. produced all the Cattle Egret reports with 32 accompanying Holsteins just north of Sebastopol on the 2nd (RS), 1 riding a Hereford near Schellville on the 11th (CLO), and 2 nesting pairs in Santa Rosa on the 14th (PGr). Also on 14 April, a Ross's Goose continued at the pond near Hwy 505,



Common Moorhen

off of Leisure Town Rd, SOL (RM).

A male Harlequin Duck at Oyster Pt Marina (SM), though seen on 1 April, was no April Fool's joke (MBe). First seen 12 March (EM), it stayed around at least through the 6th (JM). Just down Hwy 101, a female Harlequin swam among the boats at Coyote Pt Marina, SM, on the 14th (RT). Then on 29 April a male Harlequin was observed splashing in the shallows at Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN (WW).

The sole Long-tailed Duck this month was a female seen on 15 April at the end of Pt Emery, ALA (DWi). Six Red-

breasted Mergansers migrated past Pigeon Pt, SM, on 19 April (RT). The same day, 2 females turned up at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, and 1 lingered at least through the 27th (WL).

Raptors to Alcids

Just 2 unusual raptors were reported in April. On the 11th, a Zone-tailed Hawk flew SE over Muddy Hollow, MRN, just upstream from the pond (KB). On the 19th, a Prairie Falcon was found on the outskirts of Livermore, ALA (RCi). At least 3 Common Moorhens turned up in western MRN, including 2 that spent practically the entire month at Five Brooks, PRNS (RS; KB). The 3rd Moorhen frequented Muddy Hollow Pond the 8th through 11th (RS; KB).

A Solitary Sandpiper was found on 19 April along Pescadero Cr, SM, and then seen twice more through the 23rd (RT; DA, JW). On 27 and 29 April, solitary birds were found on the back side of Mt. Hamilton near the Sandoval Ranch, SCL, (KH) and near the town of Two Rock, SON (DN). Between 11 and 15 April, a handful of Ruddy Turnstones was seen foraging on the rocks near the Berkeley Marina (ALA), in the company of a Black Turnstone flock that numbered as many as 50 (CoL; SB).

On 15 April, a remarkable count of 41 Surfbirds was tallied at Coyote Pt., SM (RT), a location that typically produced no more than 10. But like McGwire's season home run record, the Coyote Pt. record lasted just a week until 82 surfers congregated there on the 21st (RT). Remarkable numbers of Red Knots also showed up on the Bay in April. Starting with a few individuals near Foster City, SM, on 1 April (HH), their numbers grew to 30-40 at Coyote Pt, SM, on the 13th (PG), which was surpassed by a count of 80 at Redwood Shores, SM, on the 15th (RT). But the show stopper was hundreds of roosting Red Knots at

Hayward Shoreline on 29 April (BB). By then, many were in breeding or near-breeding plumage.

On 22 April, 2 Baird's Sandpipers stopped in at Lower Abbott's Lagoon at PRNS, MRN (KB). On 8 and 11 April, at least 1 and maybe 2 Reeves (female Ruff) were observed at PRNS, MRN, the 1st near Johnson's Oysters (RS) and the 2nd between the coast guard station and G Ranch Rd (KB). Phalaropes came inland at a couple locations on 29 April. In Petaluma (SON), 6 Red-necked Phalaropes were at Shollenberger Park ponds (DN); at Hayward Shoreline (ALA) female Red Phalarope in near breeding plumage fed by herself (BB).

Doves to Thrashers

Gazos Cr Rd, SM, continued to be a reliable spot for those in search of Northern Pygmy-Owls (RT). Calliope Hummingbirds seemed to be everywhere in April. The 1st bird showed up on 10 April in a Napa backyard (DvH, DnH). From the 25th through the end of the month, Calliopes moved through in force, with reports coming in from Sibley RP, ALA (MR); El Verado, SON (LW); Mitchell Cyn in Mt Diablo SP, CC (AWi; MR); the Oakland Hills, ALA (MR); Mt Davidson, SF (PS; BF); Coyote Pt, SM (RT); west Napa, NAP (DnH, DvH); and Bodega Bay, SON (DN). A pair of Hairy Woodpeckers visited El Polin spring, SF, on 5 April (JC).

A migration watch from Mt. Davidson, SF, turned up a Hammond's Flycatcher on 17 April (PS). Two more turned up on a 26 April field trip to Mitchell Cyn in Mt Diablo SP, CC (AWi). A holdover from the Dec. CBC, the Tropical Kingbird at Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma, SM, was found again on 1 April (HH). On 14 April, a Plumbeous Vireo was feeding in the under story on Mix Cyn Rd, SOL (RM).

On 2 April, Purple Martins visited Laguna De Santa Rosa, SON, (RS). On the 8th at PRNS, MRN, Bank Swallows

Wood Warbler Sightings

Nashville Warbler

Apr. 8	PRNS, MRN	RS
Apr. 9	GG Park, SF	MZ
Apr. 18	Coyote Pt, SM	RT
Apr. 26	Mitchell Cyn, Mt Diablo SP, CC	
	AWi	

Northern Parula

Apr. 28	Limantour Rd, PRNS, MRN
	RFi

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Apr. 9, 29	Coyote Pt, SM	AE, RT
Apr. 10, 20	Walnut Creek, CC	DL; DB
Apr. 30	Mitchell Cyn, Mt Diablo SP, CC	
	MR	

Hermit Warbler

Apr. 5	Mountain Lake, SF	JC
Apr. 26, 30	Mitchell Cyn, Mt Diablo SP, CC	
	AWi; MR	
Apr. 29	Coyote Pt, SM	RT

Palm Warbler

Apr. 19	Pescadero Cr., SM	RT
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MacGillivray's Warbler

Apr. 27	Inspiration Pt, Tilden RP, CC	JP
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Hooded Warbler

Apr. 30	Coyote Pt, SM	RT
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Abbreviations for Observers: DA, David Armstrong; BB, Bob Battagin; DB, Dennis Braddy; KB, Ken Burton; MBe, Mary Becklot; SB, Stewart Bolinger; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; RC, Roy Carlson; RCi, Rich Cimino; ADM, Al DeMartini; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; AE, Al Eisner; AEri, Andy Engilis; BF, Brian Fitch; HF, Harry Fuller; RF, Rich Fernick; RFi, Ralph Fielding; PG, Phil Gordon; PGr, Philip Greene; AH, Alan Hopkins; DnH, Denise Hamilton; DvH, David Hamilton; HH, Hugh Harvey; KH, Kevin Hints; RH, Rob Hewitt; SH, Steve Huckabone; SHA, Sarah Hamilton; RK, Richard Kuehn; CL, Cindy Lieurance; CLo, Calvin Lou, CoL, Corinne Louise; DL, Don Lewis; JL, John Luther; LL, Les Lieurance; RL, Rick Lebaudour; RLn, Robin Leong; TL, Thomas Leeman; WL, William Legge; DM, Dan Murphy; JM, Joe Morlan; PM, Peter Metropulos; RM, Roger Muskat; DN, Dan Nelson; JP, John Poole; MP, Michael Perrone; BR, Bob Richmond; JR, Jean Richmond; MR, Mark Rauzon; DS, Doug Shaw; ES, Emilie Strauss; MS, Maury Stern; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rich Stallcup; RSt, Ron Storey; RT, Ronald S. Thorn; MU, Myra Ulvang; AW, Anna Wilcox; AWi, Alan Wight; DWi, Denise Wight; JW, Jeff Wall; LW, Larry West; WW, Will Wilson; MZ, Matt Zlatunich

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; Cr, Creek; Cyn, Canyon; GGP, Golden Gate Park; GLN, Glenn; L, Lake; MER, Merced; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; Pt, Point; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; Rd, Road; Res, Reservoir; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; YOL, Yolo


migrated north over Limantour Beach (RS). On 21 April, Bank Swallows were part of a mixed flock over the north end of L Merced, SF (BF).

Wood Warblers to Finches

Unusual wood warbler sightings were relatively few and far between. Other than single sightings of a Hooded Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Northern Parula, observers reported the expected West Coast species (see table). On 20 April, a wayward Clay-colored Sparrow showed up at a private residence near Winters, SOL and stayed a week (MP; CLo). In Half Moon Bay, SM, 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were singing on 12 April from the Coyote Bushes on a grassy hillside north of Higgins-Purissima Rd (RT).

Petaluma, SON, continued to be a hotspot for Great-tailed Grackles, which appear to be colonizing the West Coast.

At various dates, a male, sometimes in the company of a female, was reported from Shollenberger Park (RSt), at the Rooster Run Golf Course (DN), near the Petaluma airport (AWi), and along Industrial Avenue (DS). The golf course was also the site of a Great-tailed Grackle nest two years ago. A male was also spotted on 29 April in the vicinity of Kennedy Park, south of Napa (NAP) (TL).

On 2 April, Red Crossbills were observed drinking from a pipe at the pond at Five Brooks, PRNS, (RS). Rounding up this month's observations, a **European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*) repeatedly visited a feeder on private property in the Sea Ranch Area of extreme northern SON (RK). First reported on April 25, the bird appeared in the company of an American Goldfinch flock after a series of storms earlier in the week. It is not known whether the bird was a vagrant or an escaped cage bird. 

December 11, 2002

Board of Directors
Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. as of June 30, 2002 and the related statement of support and revenue, expenses and changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. as of June 30, 2002 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Kirby and Forbes

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2002

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>COMBINED TOTAL</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$ 55,632			\$ 55,632
Other Receivables	2,276			2,276
Inventory	1,920			1,920
Investments				
(At Fair Market Value)	213,141	\$ 246,991	\$ 67,777	527,909
Deposits	<u>360</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>360</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>273,329</u>	<u>246,991</u>	<u>67,777</u>	<u>588,097</u>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 273,329</u> =====	<u>\$ 246,991</u> =====	<u>\$ 67,777</u> =====	<u>\$ 588,097</u> =====
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 8,325			\$ 8,325
Payroll And Sales Taxes Payable	<u>1,775</u>			<u>1,775</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>10,100</u>			<u>10,100</u>
Net Assets	<u>263,229</u>	<u>\$ 246,991</u>	<u>\$ 67,777</u>	<u>577,997</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 273,329</u> =====	<u>\$ 246,991</u> =====	<u>\$ 67,777</u> =====	<u>\$ 588,097</u> =====

Complete GGAS 2002 audited financial statements are available for inspection at the GGAS office or by mail upon request.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2002

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change In Net Assets	\$(211,798)
Adjustments To Reconcile Change In Net Assets To Cash Provided By Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	277
Gain/Loss On Sale Of Securities	(57,063)
Unrealized Gain/Loss On Investments	(144,352)
(Increase) Decrease In:	
Other Receivables	2,104
Inventory	(360)
Prepaid Expenses/Deposits	-
Increase (Decrease) In:	
Accounts Payable	7,185
Payroll And Sales Taxes Payable	(121)
Deposits	-
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	(404,128)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Purchase Of Marketable Securities	101,996
Proceeds From Sale Of Marketable Securities	298,904
Purchase (Sale) Of Fixed Assets	476
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	401,376

Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents (2,752)

Cash and Cash Equivalents, June 30, 2001 58,384

Cash and Cash Equivalents, June 30, 2002 \$ 55,632
=====

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
JUNE 30, 2002

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>COMBINED TOTAL</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Public Support				
Direct Contributions				
Gifts And Donations	\$ 93,780			\$ 93,780
Grants	10,219	136,944		147,163
Total Direct Contributions	103,999	136,944		240,943
Indirect Contributions				
Earth Share	4,750	-		4,750
Total Public Support	108,749	136,944		245,693
Revenue				
Investment Earnings (Loss), Net	(54,298)	(17,850)	(7,607)	(79,755)
Membership Dues	22,716			22,716
Newsletter Subscriptions	1,587			1,587
MLK Settlement	-	18,000		18,000
Merchandise Sales				
(Net Of Direct Expenses of \$6,399)	4,475			4,475
Other	588	-	-	588
Total Revenue	(24,932)	150	(7,607)	(32,389)
Net Assets Released from Restriction	-	-	-	-
Total Public Support and Revenue	83,817	137,094	(7,607)	213,304
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES				
Program Services:				
Newsletter	32,748			32,748
Conservation	106,346			106,346
Educational Programs	171,766	66,821		238,587
Management And General	39,174			39,174
Fundraising	8,247	-	-	8,247
Total Expenses	358,281	66,821	-	425,102
Change in Net Assets	(274,464)	70,273	(7,607)	(211,798)
Net Assets at June 30, 2001	537,693	176,718	75,384	789,795
Net Assets at June 30, 2002	\$ 263,229	\$ 246,991	\$ 67,777	\$ 577,997
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Saving the Songbirds

Sunday, June 8, 2003 • 2 p.m.

San Francisco Main Library, Koret Auditorium
Civic Center • Larkin and Grove Streets, San Francisco

This free program features the San Francisco premiere of *Wake Up Call: Saving the Songbirds*, produced and directed by local filmmaker Claire Blotter. The film includes breathtaking closeups of joyfully singing birds and interviews with bird experts from Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Nancy DeStefanis, director of San Francisco Nature Education, will moderate a panel discussion on ways to attract songbirds to your garden, best places to observe songbirds and how to preserve songbird populations.

Special appearance by acclaimed Piedmont High School bird callers!

Call 415.557.4277 for more information.

Sponsored by San Francisco Nature Education, Golden Gate Audubon Society and Wallace Stegner Environmental Center of the San Francisco Main Library.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Common Yellowthroat

GGAS Thanks Barry Deutsch

GGAS has a beautiful new brochure that describes our programs and conservation successes—thanks to the generous contribution of Barry Deutsch of Deutsch Design Works. Barry designed the brochure as a gift to GGAS.

The brochure gives GGAS a creative way to reach out to the San Francisco Bay community and share information about our conservation, advocacy, education and recreation efforts.

GGAS extends a huge thank you to Barry for his support.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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